



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : B41C 1/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/37254 (43) International Publication Date: 29 June 2000 (29.06.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/04253</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 14 December 1999 (14.12.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9828153.8 22 December 1998 (22.12.98) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY [US/US]; 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NEWINGTON, Ian, Martin [GB/GB]; 11 Ashtree Walk, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7TG (GB). HARRIS, Mark, Anthony [US/US]; 93 Bramhall Drive, Rochester, NY 14626 (US). FLEISSIG, Judith, Lynn [US/US]; 100 Park Lane, Rochester, NY 14625 (US). LAWRENCE, Kristine, Barbara [US/US]; 204 Morrow Drive, Greece, Rochester, NY 14616-2757 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: NUNNEY, R., F., A.; Kodak Limited, Headstone Drive, Harrow, Middx HA1 4TY (GB).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published With international search report.</p>	
<p>(54) Title: LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES AND METHOD FOR THEIR PREPARATION</p> <div data-bbox="506 1150 1088 1669" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A method for the preparation of a lithographic printing plate comprises forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic film-forming polymer which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation, whereby the polymer adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film. The polymer preferably has functional groups such as sulphonate that bind the polymer to the hydrophilic surface. Preferably the polymer has a glass transition temperature of not greater than about 105°C and where the glass transition temperature is above 5°C the polymer, after deposition on the plate, is preferably subjected to a heat treatment to assist in film formation.</p>		



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : B41C 1/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/37254 (43) International Publication Date: 29 June 2000 (29.06.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/04253</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 14 December 1999 (14.12.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 9828153.8 22 December 1998 (22.12.98) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY [US/US]; 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NEWINGTON, Ian, Martin [GB/GB]; 11 Ashtree Walk, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7TG (GB). HARRIS, Mark, Anthony [US/US]; 93 Bramhall Drive, Rochester, NY 14626 (US). FLEISSIG, Judith, Lynn [US/US]; 100 Park Lane, Rochester, NY 14625 (US). LAWRENCE, Kristine, Barbara [US/US]; 204 Morrow Drive, Greece, Rochester, NY 14616-2757 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: NUNNEY, R., F., A.; Kodak Limited, Headstone Drive, Harrow, Middx HA1 4TY (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES AND METHOD FOR THEIR PREPARATION</p> <div data-bbox="500 1144 1096 1669" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A method for the preparation of a lithographic printing plate comprises forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic film-forming polymer which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation, whereby the polymer adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film. The polymer preferably has functional groups such as sulphonate that bind the polymer to the hydrophilic surface. Preferably the polymer has a glass transition temperature of not greater than about 105°C and where the glass transition temperature is above 5°C the polymer, after deposition on the plate, is preferably subjected to a heat treatment to assist in film formation.</p>		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakistan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES AND METHOD FOR THEIR PREPARATION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to novel printing plates, to a
5 method for their preparation and to a lithographic
printing process employing the plates.

Background of the Invention

Printing plates suitable for offset lithographic
10 printing are known which comprise a support having
non-image areas which are hydrophilic and image areas
which are hydrophobic and ink-receptive.

The art of lithographic printing is based upon the
immiscibility of oil and water, wherein the oily
15 material or ink is preferentially retained by the
image area and water or fountain solution is
preferentially retained by the non-image area. When a
suitably prepared surface is moistened with water and
an ink is then applied the background or non-image
20 area retains the water and repels the ink while the
image area accepts the ink and repels the water. The
ink on the image area is then transferred to the
surface of a material upon which the image is to be
reproduced, such as paper, cloth and the like.

25 Commonly the ink is transferred to an intermediate
material called the blanket which in turn transfers
the ink to the surface of the material upon which the
image is to be reproduced.

Ink-jetting is the non-impact method for producing
30 images by the deposition of ink droplets on a
substrate in response to digital signals.

JP-A-53015905 describes the preparation of a printing
plate by ink-jetting an alcohol-soluble resin in an
organic solvent onto an aluminum printing plate.

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PLATES AND METHOD FOR THEIR PREPARATION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to novel printing plates, to a
5 method for their preparation and to a lithographic
printing process employing the plates.

Background of the Invention

Printing plates suitable for offset lithographic
10 printing are known which comprise a support having
non-image areas which are hydrophilic and image areas
which are hydrophobic and ink-receptive.

The art of lithographic printing is based upon the
immiscibility of oil and water, wherein the oily
15 material or ink is preferentially retained by the
image area and water or fountain solution is
preferentially retained by the non-image area. When a
suitably prepared surface is moistened with water and
an ink is then applied the background or non-image
20 area retains the water and repels the ink while the
image area accepts the ink and repels the water. The
ink on the image area is then transferred to the
surface of a material upon which the image is to be
reproduced, such as paper, cloth and the like.

25 Commonly the ink is transferred to an intermediate
material called the blanket which in turn transfers
the ink to the surface of the material upon which the
image is to be reproduced.

Ink-jetting is the non-impact method for producing
30 images by the deposition of ink droplets on a
substrate in response to digital signals.

JP-A-53015905 describes the preparation of a printing
plate by ink-jetting an alcohol-soluble resin in an
organic solvent onto an aluminum printing plate.

JP-A-56105960 describes the formation of a printing plate by ink-jetting onto a support e.g. an anodised aluminum plate an ink capable of forming an oleophilic image and containing a hardening substance such as
5 epoxy-soybean oil together with benzoyl peroxide or a photohardening substance such as an unsaturated polyester.

European Patent Application No 0882584 describes a method of preparing a printing plate comprising
10 producing an oleophilic image on the surface of a support by ink-jet printing the image on the surface using an aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion of a salt of a hydrophobic organic acid e.g. oleic acid.

15 GB Patent Application No. 2,332,646 describes a method of preparing a printing plate comprising producing an oleophilic image on the surface using an aqueous solution or colloidal dispersion of a polymer bearing water solubilising groups wherein the water-
20 solubilising groups interact with the surface of the support thereby binding the polymer to the support and rendering the polymer insoluble. In the method described the polymer containing water solubilising groups is dispersed in water to form the solution or
25 emulsion.

Problem to be solved by the Invention

Long press runs with plates made by jetting a fluid onto the ink accepting image areas of the plate
30 require that the fluid harden or cross-link into a layer which will not wear off under the conditions of the lithographic

A method of preparing printing plates using ink-jetting is required which avoids the use of organic
35 solvents and/or light sensitive materials.

JP-A-56105960 describes the formation of a printing plate by ink-jetting onto a support e.g. an anodised aluminum plate an ink capable of forming an oleophilic image and containing a hardening substance such as
5 epoxy-soybean oil together with benzoyl peroxide or a photohardening substance such as an unsaturated polyester.

European Patent Application No 0882584 describes a method of preparing a printing plate comprising
10 producing an oleophilic image on the surface of a support by ink-jet printing the image on the surface using an aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion of a salt of a hydrophobic organic acid e.g. oleic acid.

15 GB Patent Application No. 2,332,646 describes a method of preparing a printing plate comprising producing an oleophilic image on the surface using an aqueous solution or colloidal dispersion of a polymer bearing water solubilising groups wherein the water-
20 solubilising groups interact with the surface of the support thereby binding the polymer to the support and rendering the polymer insoluble. In the method described the polymer containing water solubilising groups is dispersed in water to form the solution or
25 emulsion.

Problem to be solved by the Invention

Long press runs with plates made by jetting a fluid onto the ink accepting image areas of the plate
30 require that the fluid harden or cross-link into a layer which will not wear off under the conditions of the lithographic

A method of preparing printing plates using ink-jetting is required which avoids the use of organic
35 solvents and/or light sensitive materials.

The present invention provides a solution to these problems by a method which employs an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation and which is applied to the plate and
5 caused to coalesce.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is provided a method for the preparation of a lithographic printing
10 plate which method comprises forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by
15 emulsion polymerisation wherein the polymer is film-forming and adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film.

Advantageous Effect of the Invention

20 The method of the invention offers a rapid, simple and direct way to make a printing plate from digital data which avoids the use of organic solvents and/or light sensitive materials.
Compared with the use of a solution of a polymer
25 disclosed in the prior art the use of a polymer emulsion in accordance with present invention can produce an improved quality of image.

Detailed Description of the Invention

30 The aqueous polymer emulsion used in the present invention is an aqueous dispersion of a polymer which has only limited solubility in water. By limited solubility is meant to include polymers which are sufficiently water soluble to form colloidal
35 suspensions of polymeric micelles.

The present invention provides a solution to these problems by a method which employs an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation and which is applied to the plate and
5 caused to coalesce.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is provided a method for the preparation of a lithographic printing
10 plate which method comprises forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by
15 emulsion polymerisation wherein the polymer is film-forming and adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film.

Advantageous Effect of the Invention

20 The method of the invention offers a rapid, simple and direct way to make a printing plate from digital data which avoids the use of organic solvents and/or light sensitive materials.

Compared with the use of a solution of a polymer
25 disclosed in the prior art the use of a polymer emulsion in accordance with present invention can produce an improved quality of image.

Detailed Description of the Invention

30 The aqueous polymer emulsion used in the present invention is an aqueous dispersion of a polymer which has only limited solubility in water. By limited solubility is meant to include polymers which are sufficiently water soluble to form colloidal
35 suspensions of polymeric micelles.

The term aqueous is intended to include the optional presence of organic liquids that are miscible with water such as a polyhydric alcohol, e.g. ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol and
5 trimethylol propane.

Conveniently the liquid in which the polymer is dispersed contains at least 30% preferably more than 50% more preferably at least 75% by weight of water. Emulsions of polymers are frequently referred to as
10 polymer latexes and the term emulsion in the present specification is intended to include latex.

It is not essential that the emulsion polymerisation is effected in the presence of water. It is within the scope of the present invention to employ a polymer
15 which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation effected in the presence of an organic liquid and then to disperse the polymer emulsion in water before use in the method of the invention.

The polymer should also not be soluble in the printing
20 ink and its glass transition temperature T_g should be such that it is not brittle at the temperature encountered in the printing process.

For example the glass transition temperature is preferably not greater than about 105°C.

25 When the glass transition temperature is greater than about 5°C, especially when above 20°C, it is preferred to heat the plate to a temperature above the glass transition temperature to produce a coherent film after ink-jetting the image.

30 When the glass transition temperature is less than 5°C it is in general not preferred to heat the plate, the exception being in the case of a polyvinylphosphonic acid post-treated plate which gives a significant improvement on heating even for low glass transition
35 temperature polymers.

The term aqueous is intended to include the optional presence of organic liquids that are miscible with water such as a polyhydric alcohol, e.g. ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol and
5 trimethylol propane.

Conveniently the liquid in which the polymer is dispersed contains at least 30% preferably more than 50% more preferably at least 75% by weight of water. Emulsions of polymers are frequently referred to as
10 polymer latexes and the term emulsion in the present specification is intended to include latex.

It is not essential that the emulsion polymerisation is effected in the presence of water. It is within the scope of the present invention to employ a polymer
15 which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation effected in the presence of an organic liquid and then to disperse the polymer emulsion in water before use in the method of the invention.

The polymer should also not be soluble in the printing
20 ink and its glass transition temperature T_g should be such that it is not brittle at the temperature encountered in the printing process.

For example the glass transition temperature is preferably not greater than about 105°C.

25 When the glass transition temperature is greater than about 5°C, especially when above 20°C, it is preferred to heat the plate to a temperature above the glass transition temperature to produce a coherent film after ink-jetting the image.

30 When the glass transition temperature is less than 5°C it is in general not preferred to heat the plate, the exception being in the case of a polyvinylphosphonic acid post-treated plate which gives a significant improvement on heating even for low glass transition
35 temperature polymers.

Preferably the latex is a non-core-shell system as these perform better than core-shell latex systems. The terms core-shell and non-core-shell are well known in the art.

5 Suitable polymer emulsions or latexes can be made by methods which are well known in the art.

For example, they can be made by rapid polymerization with vigorous agitation in a liquid carrier of at least one monomer which would form a hydrophobic
10 homopolymer. Use of more than one monomer produces copolymer latexes. Typical useful copolymers include interpolymers of acrylic esters and sulfoesters as disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 3,411,911, interpolymers of acrylic esters and sulfobetains as disclosed in
15 U.S. Patent No. 3,411,912, interpolymers of alkyl acrylates and acrylic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,287,289, interpolymers of vinyl acetate, alkyl acrylates and acrylic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No 3,296,169 and interpolymers as disclosed in
20 U. S. Patent No. 3,459,790.

Polymeric emulsions or latexes suitable for use in the present invention can also be made by rapid polymerization with vigorous agitation of hydrophobic polymers when polymerized in the presence of high
25 concentrations of surfactants which contain water-solubilizing groups. The surfactants are apparently entrained in the micelle and the solubilizing group of the surfactant provides sufficient compatibility with aqueous liquids to provide a dispersion very much like
30 a soap.

Suitable latexes are disclosed in U.S Patents Nos 3,142,568 to Nottorf, 3,193,386 to White, 3,062,674 to Houck et al and 3,220,844 to Houck et al.

The polymer emulsion or latex will usually have
35 micelles about 1.0 micron average diameter or smaller

Preferably the latex is a non-core-shell system as these perform better than core-shell latex systems. The terms core-shell and non-core-shell are well known in the art.

5 Suitable polymer emulsions or latexes can be made by methods which are well known in the art. For example, they can be made by rapid polymerization with vigorous agitation in a liquid carrier of at least one monomer which would form a hydrophobic
10 homopolymer. Use of more than one monomer produces copolymer latexes. Typical useful copolymers include interpolymers of acrylic esters and sulfoesters as disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 3,411,911, interpolymers of acrylic esters and sulfobetains as disclosed in
15 U.S. Patent No. 3,411,912, interpolymers of alkyl acrylates and acrylic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,287,289, interpolymers of vinyl acetate, alkyl acrylates and acrylic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No 3,296,169 and interpolymers as disclosed in
20 U. S. Patent No. 3,459,790.

Polymeric emulsions or latexes suitable for use in the present invention can also be made by rapid polymerization with vigorous agitation of hydrophobic polymers when polymerized in the presence of high
25 concentrations of surfactants which contain water-solubilizing groups. The surfactants are apparently entrained in the micelle and the solubilizing group of the surfactant provides sufficient compatibility with aqueous liquids to provide a dispersion very much like
30 a soap.

Suitable latexes are disclosed in U.S Patents Nos 3,142,568 to Nottorf, 3,193,386 to White, 3,062,674 to Houck et al and 3,220,844 to Houck et al. The polymer emulsion or latex will usually have
35 micelles about 1.0 micron average diameter or smaller

and preferably less than 0.3 micron in average diameter. For use in inkjet printing plates it is desirable that the size is significantly smaller than the orifice of the ink jet nozzle to avoid clogging the opening.

The coalescence of the polymer may be assisted by heating, a suitable dispersing surfactant or the addition of a coalescent aid plasticiser or cosolvent for example methyl pyrrolidone.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a printing plate comprising a hydrophilic support having deposited thereon an oleophilic film of polymer which has coalesced from an aqueous emulsion of a polymer which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation.

Preferably the polymer contains functional groups (such as sulphonate and carboxylate or the salts thereof eg alkali metal) that bind the polymer to the surface of the support. The functional groups will usually be hydrophilic.

The polymer will contain a hydrophobic structure in the molecule so that it can form a hydrophobic film on the plate.

The polymer may be the polymer of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers, or a polyester or polyurethane.

Conveniently the molecular weight of the polymer is in the range 10,000 to 100,000 preferably about 15,000 to 40,000.

According to another aspect of the invention a printing process comprises using a printing plate having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of coalesced polymer whose glass transition temperature is such that it is not brittle

and preferably less than 0.3 micron in average diameter. For use in inkjet printing plates it is desirable that the size is significantly smaller than the orifice of the ink jet nozzle to avoid clogging the opening.

The coalescence of the polymer may be assisted by heating, a suitable dispersing surfactant or the addition of a coalescent aid plasticiser or cosolvent for example methyl pyrrolidone.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a printing plate comprising a hydrophilic support having deposited thereon an oleophilic film of polymer which has coalesced from an aqueous emulsion of a polymer which has been prepared by emulsion polymerisation.

Preferably the polymer contains functional groups (such as sulphonate and carboxylate or the salts thereof eg alkali metal) that bind the polymer to the surface of the support. The functional groups will usually be hydrophilic.

The polymer will contain a hydrophobic structure in the molecule so that it can form a hydrophobic film on the plate.

The polymer may be the polymer of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers, or a polyester or polyurethane.

Conveniently the molecular weight of the polymer is in the range 10,000 to 100,000 preferably about 15,000 to 40,000.

According to another aspect of the invention a printing process comprises using a printing plate having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of coalesced polymer whose glass transition temperature is such that it is not brittle

under the printing conditions and is preferably not greater than 105°C.

The ink-jet printer may be of the thermal or piezo type and may be continuous or drop on demand.

- 5 Jet velocity, separation length of the droplets, drop size and stream stability are greatly affected by the surface tension and the viscosity of the aqueous composition. Ink-jet inks suitable for use with ink-jet printing systems may have a surface tension in the
10 range from 20 to 60, preferably 30 to 50 dynes/cm. Control of the surface tension in aqueous inks may be accomplished by addition of small amounts of surfactants. The level of surfactants to be used can be determined through simple trial and error
15 experiments. Anionic and non-ionic surfactants may be selected from those disclosed in US Patents Nos. 5,324,349; 4,156,616; and 5,279,654 as well as many other surfactants known in the ink-jet art. Commercial surfactants include the Surfynol (Trade
20 Mark) range from Air Products; the Zonyl (Trade Mark) range from DuPont; the Fluorad (Trade Mark) range from 3M and the Aerosol (Trade Mark) range from Cyanamid. The viscosity of the ink is preferably no greater than 20 centipoise e.g. from 1 to 10, preferably from 1 to
25 5 centipoise at 20°C. The emulsion used in the ink-jet printer may comprise other ingredients, for example water-soluble liquids or solids with a substantially higher boiling point than water, e.g. ethanediol, as well as other types of
30 oleophilic precursors such as the sodium salt of oleic acid. A humectant or co-solvent may be included to help prevent the ink from drying out or crusting in the orifices of the print head. A penetrant may also optionally be included to help the ink penetrate the
35 surface of the support. A biocide, such as Proxel

under the printing conditions and is preferably not greater than 105°C.

The ink-jet printer may be of the thermal or piezo type and may be continuous or drop on demand.

5 Jet velocity, separation length of the droplets, drop size and stream stability are greatly affected by the surface tension and the viscosity of the aqueous composition. Ink-jet inks suitable for use with ink-jet printing systems may have a surface tension in the
10 range from 20 to 60, preferably 30 to 50 dynes/cm. Control of the surface tension in aqueous inks may be accomplished by addition of small amounts of surfactants. The level of surfactants to be used can be determined through simple trial and error
15 experiments. Anionic and non-ionic surfactants may be selected from those disclosed in US Patents Nos. 5,324,349; 4,156,616; and 5,279,654 as well as many other surfactants known in the ink-jet art. Commercial surfactants include the Surfynol (Trade
20 Mark) range from Air Products; the Zonyl (Trade Mark) range from DuPont; the Fluorad (Trade Mark) range from 3M and the Aerosol (Trade Mark) range from Cyanamid. The viscosity of the ink is preferably no greater than 20 centipoise e.g. from 1 to 10, preferably from 1 to
25 5 centipoise at 20°C.

The emulsion used in the ink-jet printer may comprise other ingredients, for example water-soluble liquids or solids with a substantially higher boiling point than water, e.g. ethanediol, as well as other types of
30 oleophilic precursors such as the sodium salt of oleic acid. A humectant or co-solvent may be included to help prevent the ink from drying out or crusting in the orifices of the print head. A penetrant may also optionally be included to help the ink penetrate the
35 surface of the support. A biocide, such as Proxel

(Trade Mark) GXL from Zeneca Colours may be added to prevent microbial growth which may otherwise occur in the ink over time.

The aqueous emulsion is employed in ink-jet printing wherein drops of the emulsion are applied in a controlled fashion to the surface of the support by ejecting droplets from a plurality of nozzles or orifices in a print head of an ink-jet printer. Commercially available ink-jet printers use several different schemes to control the deposition of the ink droplets. Such schemes are generally of two types: continuous stream or drop-on-demand.

In drop-on-demand systems a droplet of ink is ejected from an orifice directly to a position on the ink receptive layer by pressure created by, for example, a piezoelectric device, an acoustic device, or a thermal process controlled in accordance with digital signals. An ink droplet is not generated and ejected through the orifice of the print head unless it is needed. Ink-jet printing methods and related printers are commercially available and need not be described in detail.

The aqueous emulsion may have properties compatible with a wide range of ejecting conditions, e.g. driving voltages, and pulse widths for thermal ink-jet printers, driving frequencies of the piezoelectric element for either a drop-on-demand device or continuous device and the shape and size of the nozzle.

The support for the lithographic printing plate is typically formed of aluminum which has been grained for example by electrochemical graining and then anodized for example by means of anodizing techniques employing sulfuric acid and/or phosphoric acid.

(Trade Mark) GXL from Zeneca Colours may be added to prevent microbial growth which may otherwise occur in the ink over time.

The aqueous emulsion is employed in ink-jet printing
5 wherein drops of the emulsion are applied in a controlled fashion to the surface of the support by ejecting droplets from a plurality of nozzles or orifices in a print head of an ink-jet printer. Commercially available ink-jet printers use several
10 different schemes to control the deposition of the ink droplets. Such schemes are generally of two types: continuous stream or drop-on-demand.

In drop-on-demand systems a droplet of ink is ejected from an orifice directly to a position on the ink
15 receptive layer by pressure created by, for example, a piezoelectric device, an acoustic device, or a thermal process controlled in accordance with digital signals. An ink droplet is not generated and ejected through the orifice of the print head unless it is needed.
20 Ink-jet printing methods and related printers are commercially available and need not be described in detail.

The aqueous emulsion may have properties compatible with a wide range of ejecting conditions, e.g. driving
25 voltages, and pulse widths for thermal ink-jet printers, driving frequencies of the piezoelectric element for either a drop-on-demand device or continuous device and the shape and size of the nozzle.

30 The support for the lithographic printing plate is typically formed of aluminum which has been grained for example by electrochemical graining and then anodized for example by means of anodizing techniques employing sulfuric acid and/or phosphoric acid.

Methods of both graining and anodizing are well known in the art.

After writing the image to the printing plate, the printing plate may be inked with printing inking the normal way and the plate used on a printing press. Before inking the plate may be treated with an aqueous solution of natural gum, such as gum acacia or of a synthetic gum such as carboxymethylcellulose, as is known in the art of printing see for example Chapter 10 of "The Lithographer's Manual" edited by Charles Shapiro and published by The Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, Inc. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1966). Referring to the drawing: from an ink-jet printer head 2 droplets of emulsion 4 are jetted onto a hydrophilic surface 6 of a printing plate 8. The direction of movement of the printing head is indicated by the arrow, A hydrophobic film 10 is produced on the support.

The invention is illustrated by the following Examples

Example 1

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.6 grams of 42.5% Carboset CR 785 which is an acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.4 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 inkjet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an AB Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed good ink rollup where the CR 785 fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Methods of both graining and anodizing are well known in the art.

After writing the image to the printing plate, the printing plate may be inked with printing inking the normal way and the plate used on a printing press. Before inking the plate may be treated with an aqueous solution of natural gum, such as gum acacia or of a synthetic gum such as carboxymethylcellulose, as is known in the art of printing see for example Chapter 10 of "The Lithographer's Manual" edited by Charles Shapiro and published by The Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, Inc. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1966). Referring to the drawing: from an ink-jet printer head 2 droplets of emulsion 4 are jetted onto a hydrophilic surface 6 of a printing plate 8. The direction of movement of the printing head is indicated by the arrow, A hydrophobic film 10 is produced on the support.

The invention is illustrated by the following Examples
Example 1

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.6 grams of 42.5% Carboaset CR 785 which is an acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.4 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 inkjet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an AB Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed good ink rollup where the CR 785 fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 2

An inkjet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.1 grams of 49% Vycar 460x46 which is a vinyl chloride acrylic latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.9 grams of water. The fluid was added to an inkjet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 inkjet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed fair ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 3.

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 4.35 grams of 35% Vycar 460x46 which is a vinyl chloride acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water and 1-methyl-2 pyrrolidone (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 25.65 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed good ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 4.

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.2 grams of 48% Carboset GA 1914 which is an acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.8 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and

Example 2

An inkjet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.1 grams of 49% Vycar 460x46 which is a vinyl chloride acrylic latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.9 grams of water. The fluid was added to an inkjet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 inkjet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed fair ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 3.

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 4.35 grams of 35% Vycar 460x46 which is a vinyl chloride acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water and 1-methyl-2 pyrrolidone (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 25.65 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 200 printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred impressions. The plate showed good ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 4.

An ink jet plate fluid was prepared by mixing 3.2 grams of 48% Carboset GA 1914 which is an acrylic copolymer latex emulsion in water (obtained from B F Goodrich Speciality Chemicals) and 26.8 grams of water. The fluid was added to an ink jet cartridge and

applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 22 ink jet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred
5 impressions. The plate showed fair ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 5.

10 Witcobond 404 (a polyurethane emulsion obtained from Witco Chemical Company) was diluted 1:1 with water to form an emulsion and spattered onto a grained anodized aluminum support with a toothbrush to make a
15 lithographic printing plate. The plate was baked at 100°C for 10 minutes, then mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and several hundred good impressions were printed with a clean background and good ink density in the areas where the droplets had fallen on the aluminum support.

20

Example 6

Witcobond 213 (a polyurethane emulsion obtained from Witco Chemical Company) was formulated according to
25 the following Table to give 20ml solution which was placed in an empty, clean ink-jet cartridge.

applied to a grained and anodized aluminum substrate using an Epson 22 ink jet printer. After drying at room temperature, the plate was mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and printed for several hundred
5 impressions. The plate showed fair ink rollup where the fluid had been applied and showed good image quality.

Example 5.

10 Witcobond 404 (a polyurethane emulsion obtained from Witco Chemical Company) was diluted 1:1 with water to form an emulsion and spattered onto a grained anodized aluminum support with a toothbrush to make a
15 lithographic printing plate. The plate was baked at 100°C for 10 minutes, then mounted on an A B Dick duplicator press and several hundred good impressions were printed with a clean background and good ink density in the areas where the droplets had fallen on the aluminum support.

20

Example 6

Witcobond 213 (a polyurethane emulsion obtained from Witco Chemical Company) was formulated according to
25 the following Table to give 20ml solution which was placed in an empty, clean ink-jet cartridge.

component	stock solutions (wt%)	vol used in ink (ml)
polymer	1	10
ethanediol	5	1
sorbitol	0	0
water		9
total		20

A standard test-object image was printed onto a
grained, anodized aluminum printing plate using an
5 Epson 200 ink-jet printer, the image allowed to dry
and the plate then placed on the printing press
(Heidelberg T-Offset) and run using Varn PressMaster
Universal Fountain Solution (diluted 1 + 15) and Van
Son Rubber based ink-VS310 "Pantone" black to give
10 clear prints of the test image after rapid ink-up.

Example 7

A dispersion of CP 310W (a chlorinated furandione-
propylene copolyolefin obtained from Eastman Chemical
Company) was diluted to 1% polymer with water. An
15 image was painted onto an Autotype Omega E-Z polyester
printing plate using an artist's paintbrush and
allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted
fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using
cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed
20 rapidly leaving the background clean.

component	stock solutions (wt%)	vol used in ink (ml)
polymer	1	10
ethanediol	5	1
sorbitol	0	0
water		9
total		20

A standard test-object image was printed onto a
grained, anodized aluminum printing plate using an
5 Epson 200 ink-jet printer, the image allowed to dry
and the plate then placed on the printing press
(Heidelberg T-Offset) and run using Varn PressMaster
Universal Fountain Solution (diluted 1 + 15) and Van
Son Rubber based ink-VS310 "Pantone" black to give
10 clear prints of the test image after rapid ink-up.

Example 7

A dispersion of CP 310W (a chlorinated furandione-
propylene copolyolefin obtained from Eastman Chemical
Company) was diluted to 1% polymer with water. An
15 image was painted onto an Autotype Omega E-Z polyester
printing plate using an artist's paintbrush and
allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted
fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using
cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed
20 rapidly leaving the background clean.

Example 8

Flexthane 630 (a urethane/acrylic hybrid polymer emulsion obtained from Air Products) was diluted to 1% weight polymer with water. An image was painted onto a polyvinylphosphonic acid treated aluminum printing plate and allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed rapidly leaving the background clean.

10

Example 9

A copolymer latex prepared from styrene, butyl acrylate and itaconic acid was diluted to 1% weight polymer in water. An image was painted onto a silica/titania/alumina coated polyester printing plate and allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed rapidly leaving the background clean.

Example 10

A range of homopolymers in latex form were dispersed in water at 1% wt polymer. Using an artist's paintbrush, images were painted onto a grained anodized aluminum printing plate using the resultant fluids. Two images per fluid were made and one was allowed to dry at ambient temperature and the other was dried by heating at 130°C for 15 minutes. The plates were wetted with dilute fountain solution (Prisco Alkaless 3000 3oz in 1 US gallon of water further diluted 1:20 with water) and rubbed with printers ink on cotton wool. The resultant image was graded on a 0 to 5 scale (0 is no image, 5 is best) related to the quality and speed of inking of the

25
30

Example 8

Flexthane 630 (a urethane/acrylic hybrid polymer emulsion obtained from Air Products) was diluted to 1% weight polymer with water. An image was painted onto a polyvinylphosphonic acid treated aluminum printing plate and allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed rapidly leaving the background clean.

10

Example 9

A copolymer latex prepared from styrene, butyl acrylate and itaconic acid was diluted to 1% weight polymer in water. An image was painted onto a silica/titania/alumina coated polyester printing plate and allowed to dry. The plate was wetted with diluted fountain solution and rubbed with printing ink using cotton wool. A good quality inked image formed rapidly leaving the background clean.

Example 10

A range of homopolymers in latex form were dispersed in water at 1% wt polymer. Using an artist's paintbrush, images were painted onto a grained anodized aluminum printing plate using the resultant fluids. Two images per fluid were made and one was allowed to dry at ambient temperature and the other was dried by heating at 130°C for 15 minutes. The plates were wetted with dilute fountain solution (Prisco Alkaless 3000 3oz in 1 US gallon of water further diluted 1:20 with water) and rubbed with printers ink on cotton wool. The resultant image was graded on a 0 to 5 scale (0 is no image, 5 is best) related to the quality and speed of inking of the

25
30

printed-on image. A rating of 3 is considered acceptable.

5

polymer	T _g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	3	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	3	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	2	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	1	4
tert-butyl methacrylate	43°C	2	4
ethyl methacrylate	65°C	2	3
methyl methacrylate	105°C	0	3

10 From the table it can be seen that the polymers with lower T_g form acceptable images at ambient conditions requiring no heat treatment of the plate, while those with a T_g above 5°C require heating to give acceptably inked image.

Example 11

15 A similar experiment was carried out using the Autotype Omega E-2 polyester printing plate with even more noticeable differences.

printed-on image. A rating of 3 is considered acceptable.

5

polymer	T_g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	3	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	3	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	2	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	1	4
tert-butyl methacrylate	43°C	2	4
ethyl methacrylate	65°C	2	3
methyl methacrylate	105°C	0	3

10 From the table it can be seen that the polymers with lower T_g form acceptable images at ambient conditions requiring no heat treatment of the plate, while those with a T_g above 5°C require heating to give acceptably inked image.

Example 11

15 A similar experiment was carried out using the Autotype Omega E-Z polyester printing plate with even more noticeable differences.

polymer	T _g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	0	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	0	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	0	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	0	4
tert butyl methacrylate	43°C	0	4
ethyl methacrylate	65°C	0	4
methyl methacrylate	105°C	0	4

5

Example 12

Using the same methodology as in Example 10 a series
of polymers was evaluated on a polyvinylphosphonic
10 acid post-treated grained, anodized aluminum printing
plate with the results shown in the table.

15

-15-

polymer	T _g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	0	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	0	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	0	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	0	4
tert butyl methacrylate	43°C	0	4
ethyl methacrylate	65°C	0	4
methyl methacrylate	105°C	0	4

5

Example 12

Using the same methodology as in Example 10 a series of polymers was evaluated on a polyvinylphosphonic acid post-treated grained, anodized aluminum printing plate with the results shown in the table.

15

-16-

polymer	T _g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	0	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	0	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	0	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	0	4
tert butyl methacrylate	43°C	0	4
styrene/t-butyl acrylate/itaconic acid	37.4°C	1	3
Eastman* AQ 55D	55°C	2	4

* Eastman AQ 55D is a sulphonated polyester.

5

The results show that an improved product is obtained by heating to 130°C and also that the treatment with polyvinylphosphonic acid has an effect on film formation.

10

Example 13

15 A series of polyester ionomers of varying molecular weight were dispersed at 1 wt% polymer in water and painted onto grained anodized aluminum and Autotype E-Z polyester printing plates.

The polymers were prepared from cyclohexane dicarboxylate (A), 5-sulfonate-isophthalate (B),
20 cyclohexanedimethanol and a diol. The molar ratio of

-16-

polymer	T _g	22°C	130°C, 15min
butyl acrylate	-54°C	0	4
ethyl acrylate	-24°C	0	4
methyl acrylate	5°C	0	4
butyl methacrylate	20°C	0	4
tert butyl methacrylate	43°C	0	4
styrene/t-butyl acrylate/itaconic acid	37.4°C	1	3
Eastman* AQ 55D	55°C	2	4

* Eastman AQ 55D is a sulphonated polyester.

5

The results show that an improved product is obtained by heating to 130°C and also that the treatment with polyvinylphosphonic acid has an effect on film formation.

10

Example 13

A series of polyester ionomers of varying molecular weight were dispersed at 1 wt% polymer in water and painted onto grained anodized aluminum and Autotype E-Z polyester printing plates.

The polymers were prepared from cyclohexane dicarboxylate (A), 5-sulfonate-isophthalate (B), cyclohexanedimethanol and a diol. The molar ratio of

20

(A) to (B) was held constant at 42:8 respectively. The mole % of cyclohexanedimethanol and diol were varied to give a series of polymers of different molecular weight. After application, the samples were allowed to dry and the plates wetted then rubbed with printers ink on cotton wool. The scores (as described in Example 10) are shown in the table. There is clearly no molecular weight relationship.

10

15

20

25

(A) to (B) was held constant at 42:8 respectively. The mole % of cyclohexanedimethanol and diol were varied to give a series of polymers of different molecular weight. After application, the samples were allowed to
5 dry and the plates wetted then rubbed with printers ink on cotton wool. The scores (as described in Example 10) are shown in the table. There is clearly no molecular weight relationship.

10

15

20

25

sample ID	aluminum	Autotype	Mn(k)
67	2	3	29.3
66	3	3	30.9
55	4	1	27.6
68	2	2	28.0
54	4	4	26.0
63	2	3	24.9
61	4	4	22.2
59	4	2	21.9
58	4	3	25.0
62	3	3	24.1
64	3	3	16.7
53	4	1	17.8
72	3	3	16.0
73	2	0	16.0
89	2	0	16.0
65	2	2	13.5
71	3	3	16.0
88	2	1	16.0
57	4	2	10.8
69	3	3	9.2
56	4	3	8.3
60	4	3	8.0
70	2	3	6.9

sample ID	aluminum	Autotype	Mn(k)
67	2	3	29.3
66	3	3	30.9
55	4	1	27.6
68	2	2	28.0
54	4	4	26.0
63	2	3	24.9
61	4	4	22.2
59	4	2	21.9
58	4	3	25.0
62	3	3	24.1
64	3	3	16.7
53	4	1	17.8
72	3	3	16.0
73	2	0	16.0
89	2	0	16.0
65	2	2	13.5
71	3	3	16.0
88	2	1	16.0
57	4	2	10.8
69	3	3	9.2
56	4	3	8.3
60	4	3	8.0
70	2	3	6.9

In the above table Mn(k) means molecular weight number average times 1000

Example 14

- 5 A number of core-shell latex polymers were compared with a non-core-shell latex series made from the same monomers. These were dispersed in water to 1 wt % polymer and painted onto grained, anodized aluminum printing plates and polyvinylphosphonic acid post-
10 treated aluminum printing plates. The plates were run on press as in Example 13. The Table shows the results.

latex	type	T _g	aluminum 5 sheets	aluminum 500 sheets	PVPA- aluminum 5 sheets	PVPA- aluminum 500 sheets
BAG 1	ncs	-34°C	4	5	3	2
BAB 1	ncs	-38°C	4	5	4	5
BAH 1	ncs	-33°C	4	5	2	0
BA 1	ncs	-42°C	4	5	2	0
BAG 2	cs	-40°C	2	3	2	4
BAB 2	cs	-40°C	2	1	1	0
BAH 2	cs	-40°C	2	1	1	0
BAG 2	cs	-40°C	0	0	0	0

15

BAG 1 is
butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate
(mole % of monomers 89/2/9)

In the above table Mn(k) means molecular weight number average times 1000

Example 14

- 5 A number of core-shell latex polymers were compared with a non-core-shell latex series made from the same monomers. These were dispersed in water to 1 wt % polymer and painted onto grained, anodized aluminum printing plates and polyvinylphosphonic acid post-
10 treated aluminum printing plates. The plates were run on press as in Example 13. The Table shows the results.

latex	type	T _g	aluminum 5 sheets	aluminum 500 sheets	PVPA- aluminum 5 sheets	PVPA- aluminum 500 sheets
BAG 1	ncs	-34°C	4	5	3	2
BAB 1	ncs	-38°C	4	5	4	5
BAH 1	ncs	-33°C	4	5	2	0
BA 1	ncs	-42°C	4	5	2	0
BAG 2	cs	-40°C	2	3	2	4
BAB 2	cs	-40°C	2	1	1	0
BAH 2	cs	-40°C	2	1	1	0
BAG 2	cs	-40°C	0	0	0	0

15

BAG 1 is
butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate
(mole % of monomers 89/2/9)

BAB 1 is
butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/butylmethacrylate
(89/2/9)

BAH 1 is
5 butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/hydroxypropylmethacrylate (89/2/9)

BA 1 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate (98/2)

BAG 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
glycidylmethacrylate (10)

10 BAB 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate (98/2)-
butylmethacrylate (10)

BAH 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
hydroxypropylmethacrylate (10)

BAG 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
15 glycidylmethacrylate (30)

From the table it is clear that non-core-shell latex
polymers perform very much better than their core
shell equivalents.

20 **Example 17.**

Dowfax 2A1 is supplied by The Dow Chemical Company and
is dodecyl (sulphophenoxy) benzenesulphonic acid
disodium salt. This is a typical dispersant for
polymer emulsions and is often present in emulsions
25 that are commercially available.

This dispersant or one similar was present in the
commercially supplied emulsions used in Examples 9,
10, 11, 12, and 14.

Dowfax 2A1 was therefore made up in water to the
30 equivalent concentration present in the latex sample.
Using grained, anodized aluminum and Autotype E-Z

-20-

BAB 1 is
butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/butylmethacrylate
(89/2/9)

BAH 1 is
5 butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate/hydroxypropylmethacrylate (89/2/9)

BA 1 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate (98/2)

BAG 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
glycidylmethacrylate (10)

10 BAB 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate (98/2)-
butylmethacrylate (10)

BAH 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
hydroxypropylmethacrylate (10)

BAG 2 is butylacrylate/allylmethacrylate(98/2)-
15 glycidylmethacrylate (30)

From the table it is clear that non-core-shell latex
polymers perform very much better than their core
shell equivalents.

20 **Example 17.**

Dowfax 2A1 is supplied by The Dow Chemical Company and
is dodecyl (sulphophenoxy) benzenesulphonic acid
disodium salt. This is a typical dispersant for
polymer emulsions and is often present in emulsions
25 that are commercially available.

This dispersant or one similar was present in the
commercially supplied emulsions used in Examples 9,
10, 11, 12, and 14.

Dowfax 2A1 was therefore made up in water to the
30 equivalent concentration present in the latex sample.
Using grained, anodized aluminum and Autotype E-Z

polyester printing plates the following results were obtained using the procedure described in Example 10. The results are summarised in the table.

material	aluminum	Autotype E-Z
Dowfax	1	0
BAG 1	2	2
BG 1	4	3

5

BG 1 is butylacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate (90/10).

It is clear the surfactant on its own is not responsible for the effect seen.

Example 16.

10 A comparison was made between latex polymers and their equivalent polymers in solution using the method of Example 10 and the results are shown in the following table.

15

20

polyester printing plates the following results were obtained using the procedure described in Example 10. The results are summarised in the table.

material	aluminum	Autotype E-Z
Dowfax	1	0
BAG 1	2	2
BG 1	4	3

5

BG 1 is butylacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate (90/10).

It is clear the surfactant on its own is not responsible for the effect seen.

Example 16.

- 10 A comparison was made between latex polymers and their equivalent polymers in solution using the method of Example 10 and the results are shown in the following table.

15

20

- 22 -

polymer	solvent/latex	aluminum	Autotype E-Z
butylacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate (90/10)	latex	4	3
	MEK	0	0
butylacrylate	latex	3	4
	toluene	3	3
hydroxypropylmethacrylate	latex	3	4
	toluene	3	0
butylmethacrylate*	latex	4	4
	toluene	4	0
tert-butylacrylate	latex	4	4
	toluene	4	0

* the plates were heated to dry (100°C for 3 minutes)
as T_g is greater than 20°C.

5

It is clear from the table that the latex polymers
have an advantage over the solution polymers,
particularly for the ceramic Autotype plate.

10

The advantages of plates prepared using aqueous
polymer emulsions in the above Examples are:

(i) the plates need no processing

(ii) aqueous emulsions are inexpensive and readily

15 available commercially and can be formulated for any
one of a range of inkjet devices

- 22 -

polymer	solvent/latex	aluminum	Autotype E-Z
butylacrylate/glycidylmethacrylate (90/10)	latex	4	3
	MEK	0	0
butylacrylate	latex	3	4
	toluene	3	3
hydroxypropylmethacrylate	latex	3	4
	toluene	3	0
butylmethacrylate*	latex	4	4
	toluene	4	0
tert-butylacrylate	latex	4	4
	toluene	4	0

* the plates were heated to dry (100°C for 3 minutes)
as T_g is greater than 20°C.

5

It is clear from the table that the latex polymers
have an advantage over the solution polymers,
particularly for the ceramic Autotype plate.

10

The advantages of plates prepared using aqueous
polymer emulsions in the above Examples are:

- (i) the plates need no processing
 - (ii) aqueous emulsions are inexpensive and readily
- 15 available commercially and can be formulated for any
one of a range of inkjet devices

(iii) as compared with plates prepared using solutions of polymers, the plates prepared in accordance with the invention give better image quality.

(iv) long print runs can be achieved.

5

10

(iii) as compared with plates prepared using solutions of polymers, the plates prepared in accordance with the invention give better image quality.

(iv) long print runs can be achieved.

5

10

CLAIMS:

1. A method for the preparation of a lithographic printing plate which method comprises
5 forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation wherein the polymer is film-
10 forming and adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer has functional groups that bind the polymer to the
15 hydrophilic support.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the polymer has a glass transition temperature of not greater than about 105°C.
20
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymer has a glass transition temperature of above 5°C and after deposition on the plate is subjected to a heat treatment to assist in film formation.
25
5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the emulsion is a non-core shell system.
- 30 6. A printing plate comprising a hydrophilic support having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation and which has coalesced from an aqueous polymer emulsion.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for the preparation of a lithographic printing plate which method comprises
5 forming an oleophilic image on the surface of a hydrophilic support by depositing, preferably by ink-jetting, the desired image on the surface using an aqueous emulsion of an organic polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation wherein the polymer is film-
10 forming and adheres to the surface of the printing plate forming an oleophilic film.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymer has functional groups that bind the polymer to the
15 hydrophilic support.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the polymer has a glass transition temperature of not greater than about 105°C.
20
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymer has a glass transition temperature of above 5°C and after deposition on the plate is subjected to a heat treatment to assist in film formation.
25
5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the emulsion is a non-core shell system.
- 30 6. A printing plate comprising a hydrophilic support having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of polymer prepared by emulsion polymerisation and which has coalesced from an aqueous polymer emulsion.

7. A printing plate as claimed in claim 6 wherein the polymer contains functional groups that bind the polymer to the surface of the support.

8. A printing plate as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein
5 the polymer is a polymer of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers, a polyester or polyurethane.

9. A printing plate as claimed in claim 8 wherein the molecular weight of the polymer is in the range 10,000 to 100,000, preferably about 15,000 to 40,000.

10

10. A printing process which process comprises using a printing plate having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of coalesced polymer deposited from an aqueous emulsion of a polymer

15 prepared by emulsion polymerisation and whose glass transition temperature is such that it is not brittle under the printing conditions and is preferably not greater than 105°C.

20

7. A printing plate as claimed in claim 6 wherein the polymer contains functional groups that bind the polymer to the surface of the support.

8. A printing plate as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein
5 the polymer is a polymer of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers, a polyester or polyurethane.

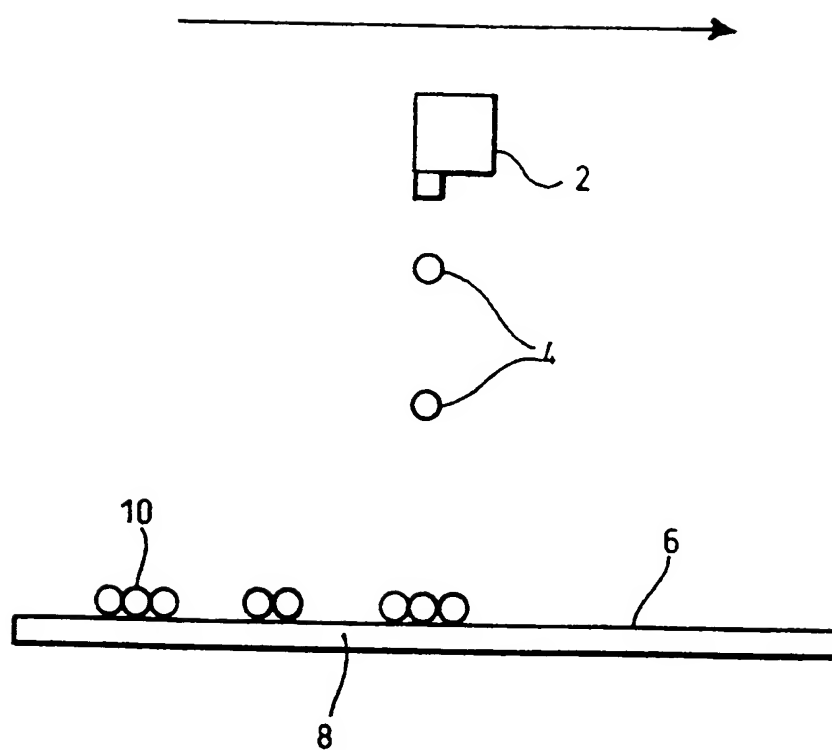
9. A printing plate as claimed in claim 8 wherein the molecular weight of the polymer is in the range 10,000 to 100,000, preferably about 15,000 to 40,000.

10

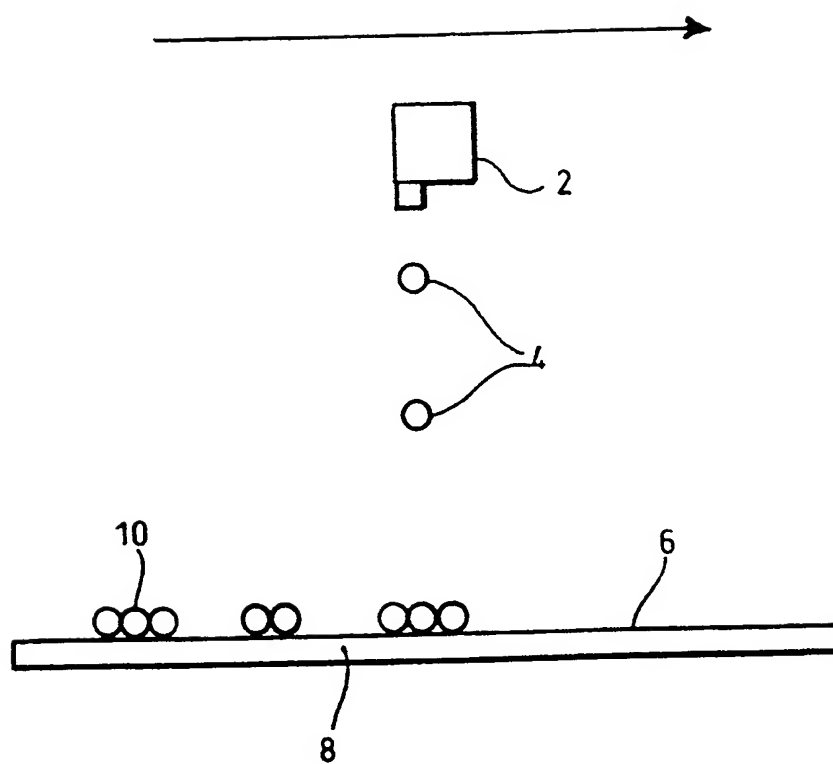
10. A printing process which process comprises using a printing plate having deposited thereon an image comprising an oleophilic film of coalesced polymer deposited from an aqueous emulsion of a polymer
15 prepared by emulsion polymerisation and whose glass transition temperature is such that it is not brittle under the printing conditions and is preferably not greater than 105°C.

20

1/1



1/1



Int. Patent Application No
PCT/GB 99/04253

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B41C1/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B41C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	EP 0 963 841 A (AGFA GEVAERT NV) 15 December 1999 (1999-12-15) paragraphs '0033!', '0034! example 1 claim 1	1,3-6,8, 10
X	EP 0 003 789 A (HOECHST AG) 5 September 1979 (1979-09-05) claim 4 example 1	1-8,10
X,P	GB 2 332 646 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) claim 8 the whole document	1-3,5-8, 10

-/-

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

7. document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

* Later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 March 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo rl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Martins Lopes, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No
PCT/GB 99/04253

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B41C1/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B41C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	EP 0 963 841 A (AGFA GEVAERT NV) 15 December 1999 (1999-12-15) paragraphs '0033!', '0034! example 1 claim 1	1,3-6,8, 10
X	EP 0 003 789 A (HOECHST AG) 5 September 1979 (1979-09-05) claim 4 example 1	1-8,10
X,P	GB 2 332 646 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) claim 8 the whole document	1-3,5-8, 10
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "A" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 March 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Martins Lopes, L

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/04253

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 213 041 A (KANCK ASBJORN J) 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25) example 1 claims 1,2	1-10
A	US 5 738 013 A (KELLETT RICHARD M) 14 April 1998 (1998-04-14) claims	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No
PCT/GB 99/04253

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 213 041 A (KANCK ASBJORN J) 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25) example 1 claims 1,2	1-10
A	US 5 738 013 A (KELLETT RICHARD M) 14 April 1998 (1998-04-14) claims	1-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/04253

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0963841	A	15-12-1999	NONE	
EP 0003789	A	05-09-1979	DE 2806802 A JP 54117203 A	23-08-1979 12-09-1979
GB 2332646	A	30-06-1999	DE 19857878 A JP 11245532 A	01-07-1999 14-09-1999
US 5213041	A	25-05-1993	DE 59205729 D EP 0520332 A JP 5185575 A	25-04-1996 30-12-1992 27-07-1993
US 5738013	A	14-04-1998	AU 3283697 A DE 900142 T EP 0900142 A US 5849066 A WO 9743122 A US 5971535 A	05-12-1997 16-09-1999 10-03-1999 15-12-1998 20-11-1997 26-10-1999

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/04253

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0963841	A	15-12-1999	NONE	
EP 0003789	A	05-09-1979	DE 2806802 A JP 54117203 A	23-08-1979 12-09-1979
GB 2332646	A	30-06-1999	DE 19857878 A JP 11245532 A	01-07-1999 14-09-1999
US 5213041	A	25-05-1993	DE 59205729 D EP 0520332 A JP 5185575 A	25-04-1996 30-12-1992 27-07-1993
US 5738013	A	14-04-1998	AU 3283697 A DE 900142 T EP 0900142 A US 5849066 A WO 9743122 A US 5971535 A	05-12-1997 16-09-1999 10-03-1999 15-12-1998 20-11-1997 26-10-1999